

1 **What Is Claimed Is**

2 1. A concealable buckle apparatus comprising:

- 3       □ a panel including a recess and a margin formed about the  
4       recess, the recess including a bottom and a wall projecting  
5       from the bottom and two slots extending from the bottom to  
6       the wall;  
7       □ a locking element including a concave first portion, a convex  
8       second portion extending from the first portion, a concave third  
9       portion extending from the second portion and a fourth portion  
10      extending from the third portion, wherein the fourth portion of  
11      the locking element is secured to the bottom of the recess;  
12      □ a shaft put between the locking element and the bottom of the  
13      panel; and  
14      □ a buckle including two lateral portions inserted through the  
15      slots and secured to the shaft and a central portion formed  
16      between the lateral portions, wherein the buckle is concealed in  
17      the recess when the shaft is retained in the first portion of the  
18      locking element, and the buckle is completely extended from  
19      the recess when the shaft is retained in the third portion of the  
20      locking element.

21 2. The concealable buckle apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the  
22 shaft defines two apertures each for receiving one of the lateral  
23 portions of the buckle.

24 3. The concealable buckle apparatus according to claim 1 including a  
25 casing for receiving the locking element, the shaft and the recess of  
26 the panel.

- 1 4. The concealable buckle apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the  
2 casing includes a recess receiving the locking element, the shaft  
3 and the recess of the panel and a margin extending from the recess  
4 for attachment to an external article.
- 5 5. The concealable buckle apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the  
6 margin of the panel is secured to the margin of the casing.
- 7 6. The concealable buckle apparatus according to claim 5 including  
8 two bolts, wherein the margin of the panel defines two apertures,  
9 and the margin of the casing defines two apertures, and the bolts  
10 are driven into the apertures of the panel and the apertures of the  
11 casing.

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